

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05971 261829Z
ACTION NEA-10

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P 261309Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2966

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5971

STADIS//////////

FOR KUX, NEA/INS FROM SCHNEIDER; NEA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IN
SUBJECT: INDIAN DELEGATION TO US

1. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY TOLD ME LAST NIGHT, APRIL 25, THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD APPROVED AN INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE US WHICH WOULD CONSIST OF RETIRED SUPREME COURT JUSTICE HEGDE, PROFESSOR J.D. SETHI, GEORGE VERGHESE AND RAJNI KOHTARI. MEHTA SAID THIS LIST WAS STILL TENTATIVE AS THEY WERE STILL CHECKING ON THE MEMBERS'S AVAILABILITY. I REPORT THIS SO THAT YOU AND PHIL TALBOT MAY KNOW THAT THE GOI CONTINUES TO BE VERY SERIOUS ABOUT SENDING SUCH A GROUP. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD THIS INFORMATION CLOSELY UNTIL THE GOI WISHES TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. VERGHESE AND KOHTARI ARE WELL KNOWN TO YOU. HEGDE DEFEATED FORMER RAILWAYS MINISTER K. HANUMANTHAIYA FOR THE BANGALORE SOUTH CONSTITUENCY IN KARNATAKA IN THE MARCH ELECTION. HE HAS ENJOYED A VARIED CAREER IN POLITICS AND ON THE BENCH. HEGDE WAS ELECTED TO THE RAJYA SABHA IN 1952, APPOINTED CHIEF
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JUSTICE OF THE DELHI HIGH COURT IN 1966, AND TO THE SUPREME COURT IN 1967. HE RESIGNED IN APRIL 1973 WHEN HIS JUNIOR ON THE COURT, A.N. RAY, WAS APPOINTED CHIEF JUSTICE. HEGDE WAS AN ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE UNGA IN 1954. J.D. SETHI IS AN ECONOMIST AT DELHI UNIVERSITY WHO APPARENTLY MANIFESTED A MARKED INTEREST IN THE GANDHIAN APPROACH DURING THE EMERGENCY. HE WROTE FOR THE JANA

SANGH DAILY MOTHERLAND IN THE PERIOD BEFORE THE EMERGENCY.
HIS ARTICLES WERE THEN OUTSPOKENLY CRITICAL OF
MRS. GANDHI AND STRONGLY NATIONALIST IN TONE. SETHI
IS NOW IN HIS LATE FORTIES. HE HAS BEEN AN ACADEMICIAN,
AND A DIRECTOR OF STUDIES AT THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD
AFFAIRS. HE WAS REPORTEDLY ONE OF THE AUTHORS OF THE
JANATA PARTY MANIFESTO.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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